

STUDY #29
Delay and Death
John 11:1-16

John's Purpose Statement : "30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John20:30-31

Introduction

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

The Message

1.→ Read these verses

John 11: 1-4 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

Luke 10: 38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. **39** And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." **41** But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, **42** but one thing is necessary.[e] Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."?

List observations from this verse in John and the verses in Luke about Mary and Martha.

What was their message to Jesus? What do you think they wanted Jesus to do? What was Jesus' focus in His response?

Jesus' Reply

2. → Read verses 5-10

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."

How did Jesus feel about Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?

Why didn't Jesus respond to their request immediately?

Why were the disciples worried about returning to Judea?

Jesus did not fear going back to Jerusalem and lays out a principle for Godly living. Put that principle into your own words.

Jesus' Plan

3. → Read verses 11-16

John 11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."

13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.

James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

What was Jesus' plan after reaching Bethany?

Jesus calls Lazarus "our friend". Friend has a special significance in the Scriptures. What does it mean to be a "friend" to Jesus according to the verses in John 15 and James 2:23?

Jesus knew that Lazarus had died. Why would He say He was glad he was not there?

Acts 7:60 And falling to his knees he [Stephan]cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 Thes. 4: 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

What kind of "sleep" are these verses talking about?

What did the disciples think Jesus meant by "sleep" and why did they believe they didn't need to go?

Which disciple showed leadership and commitment to Jesus? To what degree did he voice his commitment?

TEACHING NOTES

1. The Message from the Sisters - John 11:1-4, Luke 10:38

2. Jesus' Reply - John 11:5-10

3. Jesus' Plan - John 11:11-16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - Going Deeper and Sharing

1. Can you remember a hard time or crisis in your life when you confidently turned to Jesus and relied on Him for the outcome? What things did you do to help you rely on Him? Did things turn out the way you wanted? Did they turn out differently than you hoped? How did you respond?

2.

Psalm 50:15-15 “and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

Jesus used the death of Lazarus to glorify God. How can your problems, fears, illness, or hard times, be used to glorify God? Are you going through a hard time now that you would like to share?

3. In these verses **“9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.**

10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

Jesus spoke about not being afraid of what happens if we walk in the light.

Are you walking in the light and doing God’s will? How can we know God’s will for **our life?**

If there is time, share any prayer requests that might come from this study.